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843.41117X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KOBAYASHI et al.

Serial No.: 10/031,785

Filed: January 25, 2002

For: SEMICONDUCTOR CONTAINER OPENING/CLOSING  
APPARATUS AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE  
MANUFACTURING METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98**

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 29, 2002

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report completed on October 10, 2001 regarding the PCT International Application filed on July 27, 2000. As can be seen, the International Preliminary Examination Report cited the prior art submitted with the international search report, and noted that the claims 1-4 of the PCT International Application "appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step, since they are not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR."

This information disclosure statement is being submitted, on information and belief, before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (843.41117X00) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Gregory E. Montone  
Registration No. 28,141

GEM/kd  
(703) 312-6600